

Serial No.: 10/737,421
Docket No.: AO720B

Examiner: T. Phan
Art Unit: 2841

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended, and new claims 7 and 8 have been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the above referenced patent application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow is respectfully requested.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §119

The Examiner indicates that an acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 (a)-(d) or (f) and that none of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants respectfully submit that they have not made a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 (a)-(d) or (f), but have only made a claim for priority to the provisional application under 35 U.S.C. §119(e), and that no certified copies of the provisional priority documents are required.

Correction of the acknowledgment of Applicants' claim is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being deemed to omit essential elements and being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 6 to affirmatively recite that when the second printed circuit board is removed and replaced with another printed circuit board having means at least in part different from and/or in addition to the means of the second printed circuit board, the functionality of the electronic device is changed and/or

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modified. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MacNak in view of Schwartz.

The Examiner asserts that MacNak describes all of the elements of the claimed invention except for the claimed asymmetrical positioning of the battery, and concludes that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of MacNak and Schwartz for the purpose of facilitating power to a circuit arrangement within a compact space.

Without conceding whether the teachings of MacNak and Schwartz are properly combinable, Applicants respectfully submit that *even if* the combination were made, Applicants invention is patentably different therefrom and non-obvious in view thereof.

As set forth in the instant application, the inventors of the present invention have recognized that it would be very advantageous to construct a “basic” module design and merely vary, between products, those needed components to provide such functional differences, enhancements and/or modifications (see page 1, lines 24-32) all in an effort to improve, among other things, inventory control and manufacturing capabilities and costs (see page 2, lines 1-5).

The foregoing objectives are carried out in the pending claims as they affirmatively recite among other things:

- i. a frame (e.g. frame 10);
- ii. a first printed circuit board (e.g. for timekeeping functionality, such as PCB 30); and

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- iii. and a removable, replaceable and physically separable second printed circuit board (e.g. for some other/additional function (e.g. compass readings or heartrate monitor, such as PCB 40)).

Thus, Applicants have appreciated that the functionality of an electronic device can easily be changed simply by removing and replacing the printed circuit board corresponding to the desired functionality. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not describe or suggest this claimed feature.

While MacNak describes an electronic timepiece with more than one printed circuit board, there is no teaching or suggestion in MacNak that the printed circuit boards may be removed and replaced in order to change and/or modify the functionality of the device. The Schwartz patent has been cited for its description of an asymmetrically positioned battery, and no indication has been (or, respectfully submitted, can be) made that this document cures any of the deficiencies noted above.

Accordingly, because neither of the cited documents describe or suggest a removable and replaceable second printed circuit board positioned in a module, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8 are not rendered obvious in view of the cited art, and thus reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the foregoing is a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejection of all of the claims is requested. Applicants believe that claims 1-8 are now in condition for allowance and an indication of allowability and an early Notice of Allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

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If Examiner feels that a telephonic interview would be helpful, he is requested to call the undersigned at (203) 575-2629 prior to the issuance of the next office action.

Respectfully submitted,



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